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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the statement of the Spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, dated 18 August 1994, in relation to the statement of 11 August 1994 by the President of the Security Council on Afghanistan (S/PRST/1994/43).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHADI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 16 August 1994 by the Spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on the United Nations Security Council presidential statement dated 11 August 1994 concerning the present situation in Afghanistan

The President of the United Nations Security Council, after the meeting of the Council on 11 August 1994, issued a statement on the current situation in Afghanistan (S/PRST/1994/43). The Islamic State of Afghanistan considers this statement an important and considerable document in the solution to the current problems in Afghanistan and welcomes the positive and realistic elements contained in it as a logical approach in the return of peace and stability in the country.

In his statement, the President strongly condemned the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan, called upon all parties to end the internal conflicts in the country and re-establish peace and tranquillity and called upon countries to stop sending arms to the fighting groups and to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The presidential statement also emphasized the contribution of the Afghan people in the settlement of their nation's internal matters.

In the view of the Islamic State, the presidential statement of the Security Council is not only a positive response to the call of the Afghans for the discontinuation of foreign interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, it is also a useful step towards establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan and preparing the ground for ensuring humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation of our war-stricken country.

The Islamic State has time and again emphasized the fact that the present fighting in Afghanistan is not an internal conflict but an imposed war from outside.

Foreign interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from some countries and certain foreign circles continues through the sending of arms and ammunition to elements tied with the outside. All these interferences are aimed at preventing peace and stability and Islamic order to consolidate the country.

With regard to the continuation of foreign interference and the fanning of the flames of internal conflict in Afghanistan which poses a new threat to Afghanistan's national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, the 11-point resolution of the Supreme Islamic Council held recently in Herat province, as well as the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, requests H.E. Mahmoud Mestiri, Head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, to look for an appropriate, effective and functional mechanism to put an end to the channelling of weapons and ammunition to those who in violation of their own commitment plotted a coup against the Islamic State and continue to rocket the capital and cause the killing of the civilian population and the destruction of public and State properties.

It is understandable that the continuation of these interferences only adds to the suffering of the Afghan people and constitutes a clear violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

It is a well-known fact that after the first visit of Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri to Afghanistan, the Security Council had no doubt about the foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Therefore, the Islamic State of Afghanistan calls upon the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council, not only to content itself only with the issuance of statements but also to start taking practical steps aimed at putting an immediate end to the foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

In spite of some positive and reassuring elements contained in the Security Council presidential statement, it is regrettable to note that the statement failed to address some other important matters and developments, among them the convening of the Herat Supreme Islamic Council in which authoritative representatives of the nation participated. The Islamic State of Afghanistan expected that the presidential statement would also mention and support the important and historic decisions of the Supreme Islamic Council towards solving the present crisis.

It is the expectation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that the United Nations should coordinate its endeavours towards solving the Afghan problem, in line with the expressed will of the Afghan nation, and extend its cooperation in the convening of the forthcoming Grand National Assembly on 23 October 1994, for the purpose of ratifying the constitution, and for the election of the political leadership and other important issues pertaining to the destiny of the Afghan nation.

Regarding the recent statement of Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, in which he condemned the fierce rocket attacks on hospitals and residential places in Kabul, which took place on Friday, 12 August 1994, the Spokesman of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs expressed appreciation for such humanitarian concern and objectivity. However, it was regrettable, the Spokesman said, to find in Mr. Mousouris's statement the fact that, unfairly, he did not hold one particular party responsible and believes that all sides were responsible for the rocket attacks. The Spokesman added that according to the information available to Mr. Mousouris, the rocket attacks on residential areas in Kabul, the Charsad Bestar Hospital, Jamhuriat Hospital and the medicine stock of the Ministry for Public Health worth over $1.5 million, which were burned and destroyed, should have served as sufficient and undeniable proof that the opposition is to be held responsible for such atrocities and the destroying of public and governmental property.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan expected and continues to expect the United Nations and Mr. Mousouris to take a clear, strong and decisive stand against such inhuman actions of the opposition as well as of those outside circles who are depriving our people from their very basic right, namely the right to life.

As to the proposed cease-fire initiated by Mr. Mousouris, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, despite its military advances, with the sincere intention of advocating a political settlement to the problem, has no objection to this proposed cease-fire. If the opposition responds positively to the United Nations proposed cease-fire, the Islamic State would be ready to observe the cease-fire and as a first step implement it in the capital, Kabul.